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DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
DELETIONS ☐

R830

U I0389)1RYRZYRZZC

URGENT """" MIDEAST-HADDAD

BEIRUT, APRIL 9 (REUTER) - DR WADI H HADDAD, THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA LEADER AND MASTERMIND OF A STRING OF PLANE HIJACKS, HAS DIED OF CANCER IN EAST GERMANY, PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

THEY SAID DR HADDAD, 49, DIED ON TUESDAY. HE WILL BE BURIED IN BEIRUT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS, THE OFFICIALS SAID.

HE WAS CO-FOUNDER OF THE RADICAL POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP). THE LAST MAJOR GUERRILLA OPERATION HE DIRECTED WAS THE HIJACKING OF A LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT TO MOGADISHU LAST OCTOBER.

R832

R I0416)2RYRZYRBYL

MIDEAST - HADDAD 2 BEIRUT (R-830 . . . OCTOBER.)

DR HADDAD WAS BORN IN HAIFA, THE SON OF A SCHOOLTEACHER, AND LATER STUDIED MEDICINE AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT.

HE AND DR GEORGE HABASH, A UNIVERSITY FRIEND, FOUNDED THE ARAB NATIONALIST MOVEMENT IN THE EARLY 1950"S. OUT OF THIS EMERGED THE PFLP IN 1966.

DR HADDAD TOOK CONTROL OF THE GROUP"S FOREIGN OPERATIONS BRANCH AND WAS STRATEGIST FOR THE FIRST PALESTINIAN PLANE HIJACK IN 1968, WHEN PFLP GUERRILLAS HIJACKED AN EL AL AIRCRAFT TO ALGIERS.

HIS MOST AMBITIOUS GUERRILLA OPERATION WAS THE MULTIPLE HIJACK OF FOUR PLANES IN SEPTEMBER 1970. THREE WERE BLOWN UP AT DAWSON"S FIELD, A DESERT AIRSTRIP IN JORDAN. THE JORDANIAN ARMY SUBSEQUENTLY ATTACKED THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS.

DR HADDAD THEN WENT UNDERGROUND, CONTINUING HIS GUERRILLA WAR FROM SECRET BASES IN LEBANON, THE LIBYAN JAMAHIRIYAH AND IRAQ.

R833

R I0429)3RYRZYRZYR

MIDEAST - HADDAD 3 BEIRUT

HE WAS CREDITED WITH INITIATING PFLP LINKS WITH THE JAPANESE RED ARMY, THE BAADER-MEINHOF GANG AND WITH INTERNATIONAL GUERRILLA ILICH RAMIREZ SANCHEZ, CODE-NAMED ""CARLOS.""

MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE RED ARMY STAGED AN ATTACK AT TEL AVIV"S LOD AIRPORT IN 1972 ON BEHALF OF THE PFLP.

DR HADDAD BROKE AWAY FROM THE POPULAR FRONT IN 1972, AND FOUR YEARS LATER HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS WERE FORMALLY DISMISSED FROM THE GROUP FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO ABIDE BY A DECISION TO DISCONTINUE HIJACKINGS.

R834

R-I0431)1RYRZYRUIV

MIDEAST - HADDAD 4 BEIRUT

HE CARRIED ON DIRECTING GUERRILLA OPERATIONS DESPITE HIS TERMINAL ILLNESS AND INFORMED PALESTINIAN SOURCES SAID HE WAS BEDRIDDEN WHEN HIS GUERRILLAS SEIZED A LUFTHANSA PLANE ON A FLIGHT FROM MAJORCA TO WEST GERMANY IN OCTOBER.

THAT HIJACK ENDED WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS STORMED BY GERMAN COMMANDOS AT MOGADISHU.

DR HADDAD ONCE ESCAPED AN ISRAELI ROCKET ATTACK ON HIS BEIRUT APARTMENT. HE WAS NOT AT HOME AT THE TIME. HIS WIFE LEILA KHALED, A PFLP HIJACKER AND HEROINE, WERE IN THE APARTMENT BUT WERE NOT INJURED.

DR HADDAD IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE AND A SON.

REUTER 0356